Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing cardiovascular disease complications in a patient following surgery comprising the sequential steps of~~step of~~:

(i) intravenously administering to the patient a β_1-adrenergic blocking agent immediately after surgery; and thereafter

(ii) administering the agent daily thereafter until symptoms of cardiovascular stress are reduced,

wherein the agent is administered near the maximum effective dose of the agent while the patient's heart rate is greater than or equal to 65 bpm, the patient's systolic blood pressure is greater than or equal to 100 mm Hg, and the patient evidences no congestive heart failure, third degree heart block, or bronchospasm.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is administered **in step (ii)** daily in the period after surgery until hospital discharge.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2 in which the agent is administered **in step (ii)** daily in the period after surgery for at least three days.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2 in which the agent is administered **in step (ii)** daily in the period after surgery for up to seven days.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 in which the β_1-adrenergic blocking agent is atenolol.

7. - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1 in which the patient suffers from coronary artery disease.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the patient is at risk for coronary artery disease.

17.-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 in which the patient has had previous vascular surgery or has at least two of the following cardiac risk factors: older than 65 years, hypertensive, current smoker, serum cholesterol level of at least 6.2 mmol/L, or diabetes mellitus.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 in which the agent is atenolol and the maximum effective dose is about 100 mg/day orally or about 10 mg BID intravenously.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the agent is administered **in step (ii)** daily for six months following surgery.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the agent is administered **in step (ii)** daily for eight months following surgery.